

PROPERTY PLANNING COMMON ELEMENTS

COMPONENTS OF MASTER PLANS

RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

Canoeing and Kayaking

Desired Experiences and Site Selection Considerations

Canoeing and kayaking provide a wide range of experiences from flat water (lakes), to moving water (streams and rivers), to whitewater (streams and rivers with sufficient fall to create rapids and waterfalls). In addition, this activity can take place for a few hours during the day at a local lake or it can be a means of transportation on a tour of a river or a flowage over the course of several days. Canoes and kayaks are also used for fishing, bird watching, collecting wild edibles, and other activities. This type of boating requires little in the way of infrastructure for launching. A clearing on a shoreline with minimal drop to the water level is sufficient.

Notable Differences in Participation or Opportunities Across the State

Participation occurs all over the state, although the limited number of lakes and larger rivers in the Driftless Area generally limits participation in this area.

Notable Times of the Year of High or Low Participation

Late spring, summer and early fall are the most popular times of the year for this activity, with summer being the peak period.

Participation

Participation Rate and Frequency

Based on a 2016 survey of Wisconsin residents conducted for the development of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), it is estimated that 34% of adult Wisconsin residents participate in canoeing or kayaking. This ranked #21 out of 64 activities evaluated.

| Days/year | % of Canoers/ Kayakers |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| 1 to 2 | 42 |
| 3 to 9 | 34 |
| 10 to 29 | 15 |
| 30 or more | 9 |
| Total | 100% |

In terms of frequency, participants that engaged in canoeing and kayaking did so less frequently than participants in most other activities (it ranked #44 in frequency out of 64 activities evaluated). Given that the season for canoeing and kayaking is limited, this does not represent the actual frequency of participation based on available days.

Estimated Trends

Canoeing and kayaking have seen growth throughout the years in Wisconsin and nationally. A recent report stated that paddle sports continued to see some of the greatest participation increases in outdoor participation from



2012 -2015 (The Outdoor Foundation 2016). With Wisconsin's easy access to water, growth in canoeing, kayaking, and paddle boarding is anticipated to continue.

Demographics

As can be seen from the SCORP survey results in the table below, Wisconsinites of all ages participate in canoeing or kayaking; these activities are particularly popular with younger men and evenly split by place of residence.

| Demographic Category | Demographic Group | % Participation Rate Within Demographic Category | % Composition of Demographic Category (sums to 100%) |
|----------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| Age | 18-29 | 47 | 29 |
| | 30-39 | 41 | 22 |
| | 40-49 | 41 | 17 |
| | 50-59 | 32 | 17 |
| | 60-69 | 23 | 11 |
| | 70 and older | 11 | 4 |
| | Total | -- | 100 |
| Gender | Female | 30 | 44 |
| | Male | 38 | 56 |
| | Total | -- | 100 |
| Residence | Rural | 35 | 50 |
| | Urban | 33 | 50 |
| | Total | -- | 100 |

References

The Outdoor Foundation. 2016. *Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report 2016*. The Outdoor Foundation, Washington, D.C. <https://outdoorindustry.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/2016-Topline-Report.pdf>

